

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of recruiting a resource, comprising:  
establishing a communications link between a requesting computer and a providing computer that is not controlled by the requesting computer; and  
the requesting computer and the providing computer negotiating a condition under which the providing computer provides the resource to the requesting computer.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the requesting computer is located at a distance of at least 1 kilometer from the providing computer.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the requesting computer and the providing computer are not both members of a single local area network.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of negotiating comprises negotiating a compensation rate for the use of the resource.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of negotiating comprises negotiating a subject matter to which the resource will be applied.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of negotiating comprises negotiating a percent of availability of the resource at the providing computer.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of negotiating comprises negotiating another condition under which an additional resource computer provides another resource to the requesting computer.
8. The method of claim 6 wherein an additional resource computer is located is located at a distance of at least 1 kilometer from the requesting computer.
9. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
the requesting computer obtaining an item of ratings information about the providing computer from a directory hosting computer; and

the requesting computer executing a first program code that determines an extent to which the requesting computer interacts with the providing computer based at least in part upon the obtained item of ratings information.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the item of ratings information relates to a job previously executed by the providing computer with respect to at least one of a satisfaction value, a promptness value, a recency value, a reliability value, a type of work value, and a compensation value.
11. The method of claim 9 wherein the step of negotiating includes the requesting computer using the item of ratings information obtained from the directory hosting computer to negotiate with the providing computer.
12. The method of claim 1 further comprising the providing computer listing the resource on a directory of available resources.
13. The method of claim 12 further comprising the providing computer listing the condition on the directory of available resources.
14. The method of claim 12 further comprising a hosting computer hosting the directory, and associating a ratings with the providing computer.
15. The method of claim 12 further comprising the providing computer additionally listing an item of ratings information on the directory.
16. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of negotiating occurs automatically without any direct human intervention.
17. The method of claim 1 further comprising the requesting computer broadcasting a recruitment message.
18. A directory of computer controlled resources, comprising:  
a plurality of resource descriptions;  
at least one condition for use of each of the plurality of resource descriptions; and  
at least one item of ratings information for each of the plurality of resource descriptions, wherein the at least one item of ratings information is used by a requesting computer to negotiate with a providing computer.

373  
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19. The directory of claim 18, wherein the condition relates to at least one resource availability factor selected from: available time, subject matter restriction, task priority, compensation, and likelihood of downtime.
20. The directory of claim 18 wherein the condition comprises an authorization for the requesting computer to report to a directory hosting computer another item of ratings information regarding an interaction between the requesting computer and the providing computer.
21. The directory of claim 18, wherein the item of ratings information includes at least one of a satisfaction value, a promptness value, a recency value, a reliability value, a type of work value, and a compensation value.